

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02204 250852Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2395
USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2204

EXCON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, RO, US
SUBJ: CDC DISC DRIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR ROMANIA, IL 1565
REF: OECD PARIS 6821

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES US MISSION'S STATUS REPORTS
ON PROGRESS SUBJECT CASE THROUGH COCOM. WE WISH, HOWEVER
REEMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE THIS CASE FOR CONTINUED SHORT-TERM
VIABILITY CDC JOINT VENTURE IN ROMANIA.

2. ACCORDING CALIN SPIRIDE, ROMANIAN MANAGING DIRECTOR
OF ROMCONTROL DATA JOINT VENTURE, COMPANY HAS SUFFICIENT
ORDERS TO MAINTAIN PLANT'S OPERATION THROUGH JUNE 1977
WITHOUT BEGINNING PRODUCTION OF DISC DRIVES. CURRENT
COMPANY PLANNING IS TO START LOCAL MANUFACTURE OF DISC
DRIVES IN JULY IF EXPORT LICENSE APPROVED BY APRIL 15;
THIS TARGET DATE FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNICAL DATA AND
DRAWINGS AND START OF MANPOWER TRAINING FOR NEW MANUFACTURING
OPERATION TO BEGIN IN JULY. LICENSE APPROVAL SUB-
SEQUENT TO APRIL 15 WILL CAUSE SLIPPAGE IN DISC DRIVE
PRODUCTION IN ROMANIA AND POSSIBLY IDLE PLANT AS THERE
NOT ENOUGH ORDERS IN HAND FOR CURRENTLY PRODUCED
"TECHNOLOGICALLY OBSOLESCE" EQUIPMENT TO KEEP
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FACTORY IN OPERATION BEYOND JUNE. WE UNDERSTAND
ROMCONTROL DATA BOARD MEETING HERE APRIL 12.

3. COMMENT: RECENTLY, ROMANIAN-US TRADE RELATIONS
DOMINATED BY STRAINS, I.E. TEXTILE RESTRAINTS, GLASS
ANTI-DUMPING ACTION AND FOOTWEAR INVESTIGATION. IN
ADDITION, EVERYTIME AMBASSADOR OR EMBOFFS MEET WITH

DPM PATAN OR OTHER HIGH LEVEL MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE
OFFICIALS, FIRST SUBJECT THEY RAISE (EARTHQUAKE ASIDE)
IS STATUS THIS EXPORT LICENSE. IF LICENSING ACTION
NOT COMPLETED BEFORE MID-APRIL OUR OVERALL TRADE RELATIONS
WITH ROMANIA WILL SUFFER A FURTHER SETBACK. INVIEW
OF THIS HIGH LEVEL GOR INTEREST AS WELL AS HIGH LEVEL
US EFFORTS EARLIER, APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND US MISSION
DOING ALL THEY CAN TO OBTAIN COCOM RESOLUTION THIS CASE
AND SUBSEQUENT OEA APPROVAL THIS CASE BEFORE APRIL 15.
AMBASSADOR LIKELY TO SEE PATAN NEXT WEEK, SO WOULD
APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

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